

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NDJAME 01506 171430Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 ACDA-12 PC-01 AID-05 OC-06
CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 WRDE-00 SY-05 HA-05 CA-01
SCS-06 COME-00 /114 W
-----046275 171440Z /50

O 171320Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6850
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T NDJAMENA 1506

PARIS FOR MURPHY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, CD
SUBJECT: REBEL ACTION BEGINS IN KANEM

REF: NDJAMENA 1493

SUMMARY: AS STATE IN REFTTEL, RUMORS OF COMBAT IN NORTH
BEGAN TO ARRIVE APRIL 15 IN NDJAMENA. SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS
HAVE CONFIRMED LOSS OF SALAL TO FROLINAT FORCES AND DOWNING
FO AD-4 AIRCRAFT.

1. DCM WAS INFORMED SATURDAY BY FRENCH HELICOPTER CREW
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NDJAME 01506 171430Z

MEMBER THAT HIS CRAFT HAD JUST RETURNED FROM ABORTED MISSION
TO RESCUE WOUNDED FROM IDENTIFIED NORTHERN CITY.
PERSONAL OBSERVATION AT AIRPORT IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER
REVEALED THAT ALL PUMA HELICOPTERS AND TRANSALL
AIRCRAFT WERE BEING FUELED AND READIED FOR SPECIAL SUNDAY MISSION.

2. IT WAS LEARNED ON FOLLOWING DAY THAT CITY UNDER ATTACK

HAD BEEN SALAL AND THAT TRANSALLS WEREFLYING REINFORCEMENTS TO ARMY BASE AT MOUSSORO WHILE NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS WERE BEING TRANSFERRED TO AIR BASE THERE. TRANSALL FLIGHTS FROM NDJAMENA CONTINUED THROUGHOUT THE DAY AND IT WAS ALSO LEARNED THAT ONE HELICOPTERHAD BEEN FIRED ON BY SMALL ARMS BUT HAD RETURNED SAFELY TO ITS BASE.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH FRENCH DCM LACOMBE, CHARGE TODAY LEARNED THAT AN AD-4 PILOT WHO WAS MISSING SINCE YESTERDAY (SEE DAO MESSAGE O 171107Z APR 78) HAD BEEN KILLED WHEN HIS PLANE WAS HIT BY BEGIN QUOTE IMPROVED SAM-7 END QUOTE. LACOME CONFIRMED THAT THE FRENCH AIR FORCE HELICOPTER WHICH RETURNED SATURDAY NIGHT HAD BEEN UNABLE TO REACH THE WOUNDED BECAUSE THE OUTPOST OF SALAL HAD FALLEN TO WELL LED AND WELL ARMED FROLINAT FORCE. THE BODY OF MERCENARY PILOT LA TOUR HAD NOT BEEN RECOVERED BECAUSE NO FURTHER FRENCH AIRCRAFT WERE BEING DISPATCHED TO THE COMBAT ZONE.

4. REBEL FORCES REPORTEDLY ARE ARMED WITH AVARIETY OF HEAVY MACHINE BUNS, BI-TUBEAND QUADRI-TUBE ANTIAIRCRAFT, AND 60 MM TO 120 MM MORTARS,AS WELL AS THE SURFACE TO AIR MISSLES.

5. DCM LACOMBE STATES THAT A COUNTER ATTARK HAS BEEN
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 NDJAME 01506 171430Z

LAUNCHEDAGAINST THE FROLINAT GARRISON BY A GOC ARMY FORCE INCLUDING A LIMITED NUMBER OF FRENCH OFFICERS. WHILE IT WAS STATED THAT COMBAT IS IN PROGRESS, WE DO NOT KNOW IF THE ATTACK HAS BEGUN YET OR WHETHER TROOP MOVEMENTS MERELY ARE UNDER WAY FROM THE MOUSSORO BASE WHICH IS 200 KMS FROM SALAL.

6. THE ONLY US PRESENCE IN THE REGION IS AT BOL, SOME 350 KMS AWAY. TWO PEACE CORPS VOLS ARESTATIONED THERE AND USAID TDY EMPLOYEES VISITBUT NONE CURRENTLY ARE IN VICINITY. WE ARE MONITORING THE SITUATION CLOSELY, COORDINATING WITH THE FRENCH WHO HAVE 25 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PEOPLE THERE, AND WILL ERR ON THE SIDE OF CAUTION IF NECESSARY.

COMMENT: THE USE OF SA-7B MISSILE AS A MOBILE WEAPON WITH ANY ADVANCING FROLINAT FORCES ELIMINATES THE USE OF GOC AIR POWER AS A COMBAT ARM. FRENCH PUMA HELICOPTER GUN SHIPS AND GOC AD-4S ARE NO LONGER BEING USED. OTHER HELICOPTER AND LIGHT AIRCRAFT WILL HAVE RECONNAISSANCE USE REDUCED. THE SUPPORT ROLE OF TRANSALLS AND BACK UP HELICOPTERS, HOWEVER, SHOULD REMAIN

UNCHANGED.

WE DO NOT KNOW THE SIZE OF ATTACKING FORCE OR IF
FOREIGN ADVISORS WERE PRESENT, BUT THIS WAS IMPLICATION
OF AMB DALLIER AND LACOMBE WHO REMARKED ON
EFFECTIVENESS OF FROLINAT ATTACKERS. DALSIMER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, CASUALTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NDJAME01506
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780164-0265
Format: TEL
From: NDJAMENA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780449/aaaabpol.tel
Line Count: 121
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 335188ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NDJAMENA 1493
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2944139
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REBEL ACTION BEGINS IN KANEM
TAGS: PINS, MOPS, PBOR, CD, FR, FROLINAT
To: STATE CAIRO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/335188ac-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014